

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

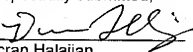
Claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-22 are pending in the application, where claim 5 has been canceled, and its features included in independent claims 1, 14, 16 and 18. Accordingly, no new issues requiring a new search have been introduced and entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 5-9 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, independent claims 1, 14, 16 and 18 have been amended to include the features of allowable claim 5 which has been canceled without prejudice.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 14, 16 and 18 are allowable, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-4, 6-13, 15 and 19-22 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from amended independent claims 1, 14 and 18, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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